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REMARKS:

Firstly, Applicant wishes to express his appreciation for the courtesies extended to his undersigned Attorney during the telephone interviews held on August 23 and October 27, 2004. An Examiner Interview Summary is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 20 and 30 and the Abstract have been amended to obviate rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and the objections citing MPEP 608.01(b), without materially affecting the scope of the pending claims. For example, Claim 2 has been amended to replace the allegedly "indefinite" expression "and/or" with the cumbersome USPTO equivalent to advance prosecution. While certain "means" terms in the Abstract have been amended to advance prosecution, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant should not be required to use terms in the Abstract which are narrower than those in the principal claims, and at least the Laughlin patent cited in the present Office Action utilizes similar terminology in its Abstract. Claims 1, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30, 32, 33 and 34 have further been amended to clarify the invention. For example, Claim 20 has been amended to eliminate redundancy with Claim 18, and Claim 34 amended to include the incentive limitation. Claims 35 and 36 have been added to present preferred embodiments based upon Claim 30.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION:

The present invention embodies the concept of providing a removably attachable security device including a portion identifying a space such as a hotel room which can be attached to a holder assembly for access means such as a key, or the key itself. Various incentives, preferably including at least one reward, are provided for the user to separate the identification portion from the holder assembly (or the access means itself) and to keep it separate from the access means for security reasons.

ELECTION OF SPECIES:

As required by the Office Action, Applicant hereby elects species I (Figs. 1 and 2) for prosecution. Additionally, Applicant wishes to include species II (Figs. 3, 4 and 5A), III (Figs. 3, 4 and 5B) and IV (Figs. 3, 4 and 5C) with this species, as all the "species" illustrated therein pertain to holders for access means which comprise at least two panels of folded stock. Applicant wishes to point out that the extensive illustrations provided for various embodiments of the invention (primarily holder assemblies, with and without access means, but also access means themselves in combination with removably attachable security devices, as in Claims 18 to 21) are not intended to be self-contained, showing only the features applicable to

the particular embodiment shown in

each figure. Rather, the many details re the types of access means, structure of holders for same and the removably attachable security devices employed therewith can be used in countless combinations and permutations, all of which are covered by at least one of the independent claims 1, 18, 30 and 34. Claims 4, 5, 6, 30 through 33, 35 and 36 are thus considered generic for species I, II, III, IVB and V. New Claims 35 and 36 read on at least species I and V.

ANTICIPATION REJECTIONS:

The rejections of Claims 1 to 7, 11 to 13, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 34 under 35 USC 102(b) over Laughlin's U.S. Patent No. 5,529,172 [Hereinafter "Laughlin"] and of Claims 1 to 3, 12 and 34 under 35 USC 102(b) over Nish's U.S. Patent No. 4,305,267 [Hereinafter "Nish"] are respectfully traversed.

The Action states that "Each discloses a holder assembly for an access means (22; 18; respectively) comprising a security device (6; 10) comprising an identification portion (17; 50) and further comprising one incentive ... motivating a user to separate the identification portion from the access means ..." These incentives are stated to be "use of the coupon" and exchanging of the key periodically, referencing Columns 3

and 4 of Nish. Specific features of the rejected claims are cited and compared with aspects of Laughlin's disclosure.

It is respectfully submitted that Laughlin does not disclose or suggest a holder assembly with a security device comprising a space identification portion and incentive(s) to separate the identification portion from the access means (such as a key) for security reasons, with the incentive also comprising a reward. While Laughlin's figures do not include components numbered either 22 or 18, an entry means holder 6 is formed of card stock to hold either a mechanical or card key. This component cannot be considered a "detachable" security device as recited in Applicant's claims, as this device is removed from the holder, then kept separate from the access means; see Claim 1. The identification portion 17 referred to is only an additional room ID, not supplanting the room number 19 imprinted upon the holder stock. Furthermore, as stated in column 4, second paragraph and partially illustrated in Fig. 2 of Laughlin, the detachable portion 17 can be a coupon OR second ID card, but not both. Thus, Laughlin neither discloses nor suggests an access means holder comprising a detachable security device with an incentive (including a reward) provided for separation of the ID portion of the security device from the access means.

As to this rejection's specific comments on the various claims, Claims 4 to 6 recite "at least two panels of sheet material folded to form a compact booklet," while Laughlin's Fig. 2 shows a single sheet of stock, with no suggestion of folding to form a booklet. The holder of Claim 7 comprises at least one envelope, distinguishing further over Laughlin -- the portion of Laughlin's holder allegedly "serving as" an envelope is insufficient to disclose or suggest the claimed feature. As commonly understood, illustrated and defined in many dictionaries (See attached page 468 of *Webster's New World Dictionary, Second College Edition*), an envelope completely encloses an object contained therein, which Laughlin's holder does not.

In Claim 13, the space identification portion which is a part of Applicant's detachable security device differs from Laughlin's disclosure, although Laughlin provides perforations 16 to separate a portion 17 (which can contain an additional space ID) from the holder. Separation of a portion 17 containing space ID would still leave the holder imprinted with space ID 19, so no "security device" or space ID has been separated from the access means. Claim 17 (as amended for clarity) provides that the security device (a removable portion of the holder) prevents the use of the access means until removed from the holder assembly.

Claim 18 (and Claims 20 and 21 dependent thereon) recites a detachable security device in combination with an access means alone, the security device preventing use of the access means until removal and (as amended) providing at least one incentive for removal, comprising a reward. All three of these claims distinguish over Laughlin's holder assembly and (alleged) "security device" in the recited structure and incentives, including a reward. Claim 34 as amended distinguishes over Laughlin by providing a detachable security device which can be removed from the holder assembly to keep an identification portion separate from the access means for security reasons, plus an incentive for doing so.

As to Nish, component 10 is a conventional cover for key 22, not a security device or holder as alleged; although room number ID 50 is provided on the cover, the cover does not disclose or suggest a security device with such ID which is detachable from a holder assembly. As discussed in the final paragraph of column 3 and the first paragraph of column 4, this 1981 patent relates to the innocent days when a hotel key might bear not only the room number but the hotel identification, and thus teaches away from the present invention. Thus, Nish cannot anticipate or render obvious Claims 1 to 3, 12 or 34 as amended, all of which recite

holder assemblies comprising detachable or removably attachable security devices including space identification portions, with incentives (preferably including a reward) provided for the user of the access means to separate the identification portion from the access means. The key cover of Nish is not a holder, and the room number is not detachable from the cover. Furthermore, there is no suggestion of an incentive or motivation for the actual user of the key to remove the inseparable holder and room number from the key; the portions of columns 3 and 4 referred to in the Action relate only to periodic changes of keys for rooms by hotel staff, as admitted therein. Such staff members cannot be considered to be "users" of the keys, let alone assigned guests.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under both Laughlin and Nish be withdrawn.

OBVIOUSNESS REJECTIONS:

The rejection of Claims 7 to 10 under 35 USC 103(a) over Laughlin in view of Hollar's U.S. Patent No. 1,667,258 [Hereinafter "Hollar"] is respectfully traversed. The Action states that Hollar disclose "an envelope or pouch(1) for securing a key prior to employment," and concludes that to modify Laughlin "employing the envelope or pouch teaching

of Hollar" would have been obvious "to secure from tampering with the key prior to its use." Firstly, these claims incorporate the limitations of Claim 1, including "at least one incentive motivating a user of said holder and the access means to separate said space identification portion from the access means and to keep them separate for security reasons," the incentive also comprising a reward. Neither Laughlin, Hollar nor any combination of their teachings suggest this combination of features. Furthermore, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine these references, since Laughlin expresses no concern about "tampering with the key prior to use" and Hollar neither discloses or suggests a space identification portion of a keyholder which can be removed from the holder, let alone an incentive to keep this portion separate from the key or other access means for security reasons.

In view of the above amendments and comments, it is respectfully urged that these rejections be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 14 and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) over Laughlin in view of Thompson's U.S. Patent No. 6,520,542 [Hereinafter "Thompson"] is respectfully traversed. The Action states that Thompson discloses "a peelable portion ... separable to separate and also reveal information," and to modify Laughlin "[by] employing the

peelable teaching of Thompson ... would have been obvious ... to separate and reveal information by the separation, as suggested by Thompson ...". It is respectfully that there is insufficient suggestion or motivation to combine these references in an attempt to emulate these claims without the use of impermissible hindsight, since the patents are from disparate and unrelated arts. Laughlin may be directed to a combined guest ID and access means holder, but Thompson discloses promotional postcards and the like, some of which have peelable components which can reveal coupons or similar rewards.

Even assuming *arguendo* that it were reasonable to combine the teachings of these references, it is respectfully submitted that such a combination would not suggest the invention of Claim 14 or 15. These claims include the limitations of Claim 1, and thus distinguish over Laughlin as argued above, and even the addition of a peelable portion revealing a reward to Laughlin would not suggest the essentials of the invention as recited therein. As summarized above, Applicant's invention resides in the combination of an access means holder comprising a detachable security device so that a space identification portion can be removed from the holder and kept separate from an access means (when present). The exact structure of

these components is secondary to their combination and operation as described and claimed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 16, 19 and 30 to 33 under 35 USC 103(a) over Laughlin in view of Jacobs' U.S. Patent No. 4,488,773 [Hereinafter "Jacobs"] is respectfully traversed. The Action states that Jacobs discloses "the desirability of keeping an access means separate from a room number for security reasons," and that "to provide instructions to do so as part of the information indicia of Laughlin would have been obvious of Jacobs ... to keep the access means unidentifiable if lost."

Firstly, Claim 16 distinguishes over Laughlin in the same manner as argued above for Claim 1 from which it depends, and even adding the teachings of Jacobs as suggested would not suggest the invention as claimed, wherein the incentive comprises a reward. Laughlin's "indicia" are disclosed and claimed only as room number identification, not as instructions of any kind. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the disclosure and teachings of Jacobs' "combined key holder and booklet" are not properly characterized by the background

section cited in the Office Action. This section states in effect that it is inconvenient for hotel guests to receive a separate key and info packet, and apparently still more inconvenient to receive the room number as another separate item. Jacobs' answer to this security and convenience problem is to provide a combined keyholder/booklet with the guest's room number inscribed thereon! (See the Summary of Invention and top of column 4.) Although the Jacobs patent issued in 1984, its teachings seem to ignore the known problems of the hotel industry and revert to the innocent days of Nish. In any case, Jacobs clearly teaches away from the present invention by permanently inscribing the room number on the front of the disclosed booklet, where it cannot be part of a removable security device to separate this vital information from the keyholder and key. In summary, Laughlin does not suggest the provision of instructions to remove a portion containing the room number from the holder assembly and key, Jacobs does not suggest a removable portion to safeguard the room number, and neither patent suggests a reward for effecting such a separation.

Claim 19, dependent upon Claim 18, recites access means in combination with a security device which comprises ID for the space, the security device preventing use of the access means until removal, with at least one incentive for

removal of the security device, the incentive including instructions to separate the security device from the access means. As illustrated in Figures 12A through 14B, this embodiment of the invention omits the holder or holder assembly recited in most of the other claims, relying upon the attachment of a security device directly to the access means so as to prevent use of the access means until the removal of the security device.. It is respectfully submitted that neither Laughlin nor Jacobs disclose or suggest a set of instructions for the removal of a security device as described above from an access means as an incentive for removal.

Claims 30 through 33 recite a portable holder assembly containing a hotel room key, the assembly comprising at least two panels folded to form a booklet, with a removable security device containing the assigned room number, the holder including instructions and incentives for the assigned guest to remove the security device (and room number) from the holder and to keep this portion separate from the key. Claim 32 specifies that the removable security device prevents use of the key until removal and Claim 33 provides specifically for a reward. New Claims 35 and 36 prresent more specific embodiments.


It is respectfully submitted that the combined

teachings of Laughlin and Jacobs do not disclose or suggest these specific claim limitations. Laughlin does not suggest a removable security device containing the room number which can be removed from the holder, Jacobs does not suggest any incentive for separating the room number and the key, and neither patent suggests a reward for separating the room number from the holder and key.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

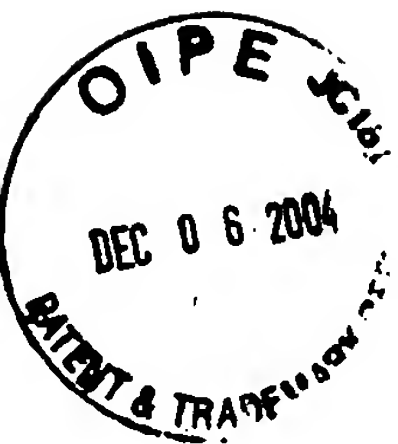
A check for \$18 in payment of the fee for two additional claims is attached hereto, together with a copy of this page for processing purposes.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as presented are allowable, which action is earnestly requested. If any question remains prior to allowing the claims, such as selecting additional species for consideration, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's Attorney so that any remaining issues can be readily resolved through an interview.

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Attachments: Dictionary page, check for \$18



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OF THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE

DAVID B. GURALNIK, *Editor in Chief*

SIMON AND SCHUSTER

viron, a circuit < *vīrer*, to turn: see **VEER**! surrounding a town or city; suburbs or surrounding area; vicinity

en-vis-age (en viz'ij) *vt.* -aged, -ag-ing [Fr. **EN-¹** & **VISAGE**] 1. [Rare] to face; confront image of in the mind; visualize; imagine

en-vi-sion (en vizh'ən) *vt.* [**EN-¹** + **VISION**] (something not yet in existence); picture

en-voi (en'voi, än'-) *n.* [Fr.] 1. same as **ENVY** thing said or done in farewell or conclusion

en-voy¹ (en'voi, än'-) *n.* [Fr. *envoyé* < pp. of < OFr. *envoyer* < *en-* (L. *in*) + *voie* (L. messenger; agent) 2. an agent sent by a ruler to transact diplomatic business; special (envoy extraordinary) ranking just below

en-voy² (en'voi, än'-) *n.* [ME. *envoye* < O sending < *envoyer*: see prec.] a postscript to or book, containing a dedication, explanation, etc.; specif., a short, concluding kind added to a ballade and some other

en-vy (en've) *n., pl. -vies* [ME. & OFr. *envi* < *invidus*, having hatred or ill will < *invidere* at < *in-*, in, upon + *videre*, to look: see **WI** of discontent and ill will because of another's possessions, etc.; resentful dislike of a something that one desires 2. desire for a quality, etc. that another has 3. an of feeling 4. [Obs.] ill will; spite —*vt.* -vies envy toward, at, or because of; regard [Obs.] to feel or show envy —**en'vy-ing-l**

ENVY—to envy another is to feel ill will, jealousy at his possession of something that one keenly achieve oneself; begrudge implies an unwilling should possess or enjoy something that he ne covet is to long ardently and wrongfully for something to another

en-wind (en wind') *vt.* -wound', -wind'ing

en-womb (-wōm') *vt.* to enclose in or a

en-wrap (-rap') *vt.* -wrapped', -wrap'ping

en-wreath (-rēth') *vt.* -wreathed', -wrea or surround with or as with a wreath

en-zo-ot-ic (en'zō ät'ik) *adj.* [**EN-**, in + *-otic*, as in **EPIZOOTIC**] affecting animals climate, or season: said of diseases: cf. enzootic disease

en-zyme (en'zim) *n.* [G. *enzym* < LGr. *ēnzymē* < Gr. *en-*, in + *zymē*, leaven] any of various substances, formed in plant and animal organic catalysts in initiating or speeding chemical reactions and that usually become unstable at high temperatures —**en'zy-n** (-zi-), **en-zy'mic** *adj.*

en-zy-mol-o-gy (en'zī mäl'ə jē, -zi-) *n.* the study of the structure and properties of enzymes and the chemical reactions they catalyze —**en'zy-mol-og-ic** (-ē'ə, -ō) [**EN-**, in + *-ol-og-ic*, as in **EPIZOOTIC**] affecting animals climate, or season: said of diseases: cf. enzootic disease

e-o-bi-ont (ē'ō bi'ənt) *n.* [coined by J. D. F.R.S. Brit. physicist < **EO-** + Gr. *biōn*, living, prp. of *biōn*, to live < *bios*, life; hypothetical precursor of living organisms evolution preceding the occurrence of life

E-o-cene (ē'ə sēn') *adj.* [**EO-** + Gr. *kainos*, new or of the second and longest epoch of the Cenozoic Era, during which man dominant animals —the Eocene the Eocene rocks: see **GEOLOGY**, chart

e-o-hip-pus (ē'ō hip'əs) *n.* [ModL. < Gr. *Eohippos* < *ēō*, dawn + *hippos*, horse] any of a genus (*Eohippus*) of extinct horses, found in the Lower Eocene it was about the size of a fox and had three front feet and three on the hind

E-o-li-an (ē'ō lē'an) *adj., n.* same as **AEOLIAN**

E-ol-ic (ē'äl'ik) *adj., n.* same as **AEOLIC**

e-o-lith (ē'ə lith') *n.* [**EO-** + **LITH**] any of the stone tools used in the early part of the Stone Age

e-o-lith-ic (ē'ə lith'ik) *adj.* [see prec. & **LITH**] of the early part of the Stone Age, during which stone tools were first used

e.o.m. end of (the) month

e-on (ē'an, ē'än) *n.* [LL. < Gr. *aiōn*, eternity < IE base **ai-*, vitality; see **AI**]

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